assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher learining. There are 357 Universities and nearly 18,000 Colleges in the country, out of which only 129 Universities and 2956 Colleges have been assessed and accredited so far. In view of the magnitude of the task at hand, presently it is not feasible to make accreditation mandatory for Universities and Colleges.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, there is no proposal to link annual grants to a University with its accreditation score. However, the UGC takes into account the accreditation status of an institution while considering proposals received under schemes such as 'College with Potential of Excellence'.

(d) and (e) The Government is already committed to respect the autonomy of higher education institutions in the country, irrespective of their accreditation score.

Job oriented education system

†1190. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give weightage to a job oriented education system having felt the need to bring about changes in the present education system;

(b) if so, the kind of changes Government are considering to bring about in the present education system and the roadmap thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Government is aware that one of the aims of the Education System is to cater to the needs of the job market.

Institutes such as the IITs, IIMs and NITs provide qualified manpower in the Technical and Management field. The maintenance and growth of these Institutes is a continuous process. There has also been growth in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

the number of private institutes imparting Technical and Management Education.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at +2 level, financial assistance is provided to the States to set up administrative structure, conduct area-vocational surveys, prepare curricula, training manuals and teacher training programmes, strengthen technical support system for research and development, evaluation etc. The scheme also provides financial assistance to NGOs and voluntary organizations for implementation of specific innovative projects for conducting short-term courses.

Development and expansion of research

†1191. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is absolute need of development and expansion in the field of research in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in comparison to China, America, Japan and other European countries, the public expenditure on research in the country is very low;

(c) if so, the part of Gross Domestic Product being spent in the above said countries and quantum thereof;

(d) whether Government have fixed a target to increase the percentage of the said expenditure; and

(e) if so, the target thereof and by when this target would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The expenditure on Research and Development as a per cent of GDP in India is 0.7 in comparison to China (1.2), North America (2.7), Japan (3.1) and European Union (1.8) as per data of UNESCO, Institute for Statistics.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.